

**Harry J. Tutunjian**  
Mayor



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## **Tutunjian Issues Cutback Order to Department Heads**

For Immediate Release  
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(March 16, 2004- TROY) Earlier this week, Mayor Harry Tutunjian issued an internal memo to department heads telling them as of this week each needs to cut 3.5 percent of earmarked budget codes to offset unexpected rising insurance and retirement costs.

Acting on the advice of Comptroller Deborah Witkowski, Tutunjian ordered the 3.5 percent cutbacks, and froze all unnecessary costs such as consulting, travel, and purchases over \$500 without prior approval from the Mayor's Office.

Several days before taking office, Witkowski told Tutunjian that the cost of insurance was going up 46 percent, a cost never mentioned by Pattison. None of the cuts will result in lost jobs.

"This is just another of the many costs we inherited from the Pattison Administration that continue to rise with no end in sight," Tutunjian said. "I have told all department heads that this is not an optional plan, but something that must take place immediately. Troy is bustling with positive activity right now, and we are not going to allow financial hardships to stop that progress."

In addition to the cutbacks that need to be made immediately, Tutunjian told department heads to be prepared to start the budget process earlier than ever, and expect to cut an additional 7 percent out of their budgets. As the financial situation currently sits, the City has a \$3-5 million budget gap for 2005.

"The situation is serious," Tutunjian said. "We do not have the luxury of rolling over unused budgeted debt service money to balance the budget, which has been done for the past eight years. We have been strapped with contracts that are siphoning money out of the City. We are going to do absolutely everything in our power to help offset rising mandated costs, while maintaining the services our residents expect and deserve."

Tutunjian said he would start his budget process early this year in an effort to have as much time to make the tough decisions that will need to be made. As he told the department heads Monday, the situation is tough, but not one that will dampen Troy's spirit.

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“This is the financial situation we have been left with, and it is the situation that we will do our best to deal with,” Tutunjian said. “While it is certainly a serious challenge, it is one we will triumph over with hard work, imaginative ideas, resourceful management, and total cooperation across the board.”